



Michigan Department of Community Health, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48933

FLU UPDATES

Cost of Treating Influenza in Children

A new study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "[Indirect, out-of-pocket and medical costs from influenza-related illness in young children](#)," in the journal *Vaccine* estimates the cost of treating laboratory-confirmed influenza in children under the age of 5 years old. This study found the economic impact of medically attended influenza in children and their families to be substantial and much higher than estimated in previous studies. Caregivers of hospitalized children accrued an estimated indirect cost of \$1,456 including approximately 73 missed work hours (the leading cost factor), incurred an average out-of-pocket expense of \$178, whereas average medical costs were \$3,990. Caregivers of children seen in the emergency department missed an average of 19 work hours (an estimated cost of \$383), incurred an average out-of-pocket expense of \$125, whereas average medical costs were \$730. Caregivers of children who visited outpatient clinics missed 11 work hours (an estimated cost of \$222) and incurred an average out-of-pocket expense of \$52. No medical costs for outpatient were collected in this study.

Manufacturers Announce Anticipated Vaccine Information for 2012-2013 Season

Last week at the National Influenza Vaccine Summit manufacturers announced projected supply for the upcoming influenza season. In the 2011-12 season, 160 million doses were manufactured and only 132 million doses were distributed. The projections for 2012-13 were:

- GSK (Fluarix, FluLaval): 25-28 million doses (vs 34 million doses in 2011-12)
- Medimmune (Flumist): 13 million doses (vs 13 million doses in 2011-12)
- Merck (CSL) (Afluria): 13 million doses (vs 11 million doses in 2011-12) -
- Novartis (Fluvirin, Agriflu): 30 million doses (vs 27 million doses in 2011-12)
- sanofi pasteur (Fluzone): 65 million doses (vs 65 million doses in 2011-12)

Additional Journal Articles

- [Obesity not a risk factor for medically attended flu](#)
- [Shot Protects Against More Than the Flu for Pregnant Women](#)
- [Pandemic 2009 H1N1 vaccination produces antibodies against multiple flu strains](#)
- [Annual economic impacts of seasonal influenza on US counties: Spatial heterogeneity and patterns](#)

Antivirals

A study in [Pediatrics](#) found the new neuraminidase inhibitor (NI) laninamivir octanoate performed similarly to zanamivir (Relenza) in Japanese children age 15 or younger who had influenza, but laninamivir may be more convenient, especially for older children.

News Articles

- [Public weighs in on pandemic antiviral distribution](#)
- [Agreement between state, Michigan Health Connect allows online data transfer of child, adult immunization records](#)

FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov

Consider ordering FREE CDC influenza print materials early for 2012-13 season events to allow for ample shipping time: <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/pubs/ncird.aspx>

Upcoming Webcasts

An educational webcast, "Helping to Prevent Influenza: A Public Health Challenge, a Public Health Opportunity" will be available in June. Register here: <http://phadultflu.prihcs.com>

The May 2012 issue of [Vaccinate Adults](#) is now online. This issue presents an array of materials that healthcare professionals can rely on to vaccinate adults. Readers will find the recently published 2012 U.S. immunization schedule for adults; a tribute to retiring CDC immunization expert William Atkinson, MD, MPH; a new handout for patients to help them find old immunization records, and much more.

The [May 2012 issue of CDC's Immunization Works! Newsletter](#) is now posted on the CDC website.

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